

According to Ickes, McNeil advised him of the Pequots' pending matter and told him that the tribe wanted a meeting at Interior. According to McNeil, however, at the meeting with Ickes (which McNeil stated was a follow-up meeting to a White House breakfast that the tribe attended after having made a \$500,000 contribution to the DNC in 1994), McNeil presented Ickes with the major issues facing the tribe at that time. McNeil stated he never asked Ickes to do anything and that neither Ickes nor anyone else at the White House set up meetings for the tribe on the land-to-trust issue. In any event, Ickes believes that he called either Duffy or Collier about the Pequots' land-to-trust application, and probably told Duffy that the tribe had an issue and wanted to meet. Duffy recalls speaking with Ickes about the Pequot issue. He characterized Ickes's call as a "status inquiry" in which Ickes indicated that the Pequots were supporters and friends of the Administration, but made no reference to campaign contributions.⁶⁰⁹ Duffy said it was unusual for Ickes to call him. Based on a review of Ickes's and Duffy's telephone message logs, the call likely took place in the spring of 1995, as reflected by a flurry of calls back and forth between Ickes and Duffy (and one from Babbitt to Ickes) in late March and early April 1995.⁶¹⁰ There is no evidence establishing that Ickes's communications with Interior affected the Department's May 1, 1995, decision to approve the Pequots' application.⁶¹¹

• *The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*: The Sault Ste. Marie of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan had applied to DOI to take land into trust in order to establish a gaming facility in the Greektown area of Detroit. In August 1994, the tribe's application was sent to Washington for review by IGMS after approval by the BIA's Minneapolis Area Office. As evidenced by Babbitt's Aug. 11, 1994, memorandum to White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta informing him that IGMS was prepared to approve the application, the White House was involved in this particular decision. The White House needed the support of Congresswoman Collins on a pending bill of importance to the Administration. Collins allegedly traded her vote on the bill for DOI's approval of the casino application.⁶¹² Interior approved the application and sought the governor's concurrence by letter dated Aug. 18, 1994.

⁶⁰⁹Grand Jury Testimony of John Duffy, May 26, 1999, at 65-66.

⁶¹⁰On March 31, 1995, Duffy left a message for Ickes at 8:36 a.m. regarding "Indian issues." Babbitt left a message for Ickes one minute later, at 8:37 a.m. the same morning. Ickes and Duffy also traded calls between April 4 and April 6.

⁶¹¹On May 1, the names and numbers of Ickes's assistants, Jennifer O'Connor and Janice Enright, were written on Duffy's phone log, suggesting that Duffy or his staff was planning to notify Ickes's staff about the Pequot decision on that date.

⁶¹²*See Vote Trade Could Prompt Engler to Reject Casino*, The Detroit News, Aug. 28, 1994, at C1.